



THE SPEARHEAD

5th MARINE DIVISION



THE SPEARHEAD

**IWO JIMA EDITION
SPEARHEAD NUMBER 2
5th MARINE DIVISION**

OUR FIRST OPERATION

IWO JIMA stood as a grim fortress guarding the gateway to Tokyo. It was an essential objective in America's great Pacific offensive. Its capture was vital. United States Marines of the 5th Marine Division, with the 4th Marine Division, stormed this grim island on February 19, 1945. Elements of the 3rd Marine Division followed three days later. These divisions, forming the V Amphibious Corps, wrote in blood another immortal chapter in the history of the United States Marine Corps. The shaded section of the above map indicates the zone of action of the 5th Marine Division.

MARINES INVADE IWO!

30,000 U. S. MARINES TAKING IWO ISLAND IN FIERCE CLASH 750 MILES FROM TOKYO

FIRST ROUND WON ON IWO

3,650 CASUALTIES

FOURTH OF IWO TAKEN;

AIRFIELD IN U.S. HANDS

IWO FIGHT RAGES IN RAIN

Two Divisions Attack Jan 1

Marines Capture Iwo's Mt. Suribachi

MARINES SET TO TAKE IWO

IN SPITE OF COST

FIGHT INTO CENTRAL IWO

IWO IS COSTLIEST U.S. BATTLE

IWO CASUALTIES MOUNT

YANK GUNS CONTROL IWO

IWO RESISTANCE RISES!

MARINES BREAST DEADLY FIRE

BLOODY IWO FIGHT RAGES

NEW MARINE PUSH ON IWO MAKES SMALL GAINS

BATTLE OF IWO IS WON!

GREAT BATTLE STORY OF THE PACIFIC

THESE are the headlines which brought the battle of Iwo Jima back to America. "No battle of World War II, not even Normandy," said Time Magazine, "was watched with more intensity by the U. S. people. Everyone knew Iwo's strategic importance."

THE COVER

The widely publicized picture of the flag-raising on Mount Suribachi was a natural selection for the cover of this booklet. The shot featured men of the Second and Third platoons, "E" Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Regiment, 5th Marine Division. Made by an Associated Press cameraman, it typified the spirit which won Iwo Jima.

MARINE Raritan's 6000 Mourn Johnny Basilone, Marine Hero

TOUGHER THAN TARAWA'

MARINE IWO

IS HALF WON

inch Ahead on Iwo Jima

FIERCE FIGHT

GRIND ON!

IWO RESISTANCE RISES!

MARINES BREAST DEADLY FIRE

BLOODY IWO FIGHT RAGES

NEW MARINE PUSH ON IWO MAKES SMALL GAINS

BATTLE OF IWO IS WON!

THE COMMAND

THE previously untried 5th Marine Division went through action on Iwo Jima with Major General Keller E. Rockey as commanding general, Brigadier General Leo D. Hermle as assistant division commander, and Colonel Ray A. Robinson as chief of staff. The Division fought as part of the V Amphibious Corps

↑
The General reads of the invasion.

→
Colonel Robinson (left), and Brigadier General Hermle look over a front-line report with Major General Rockey.

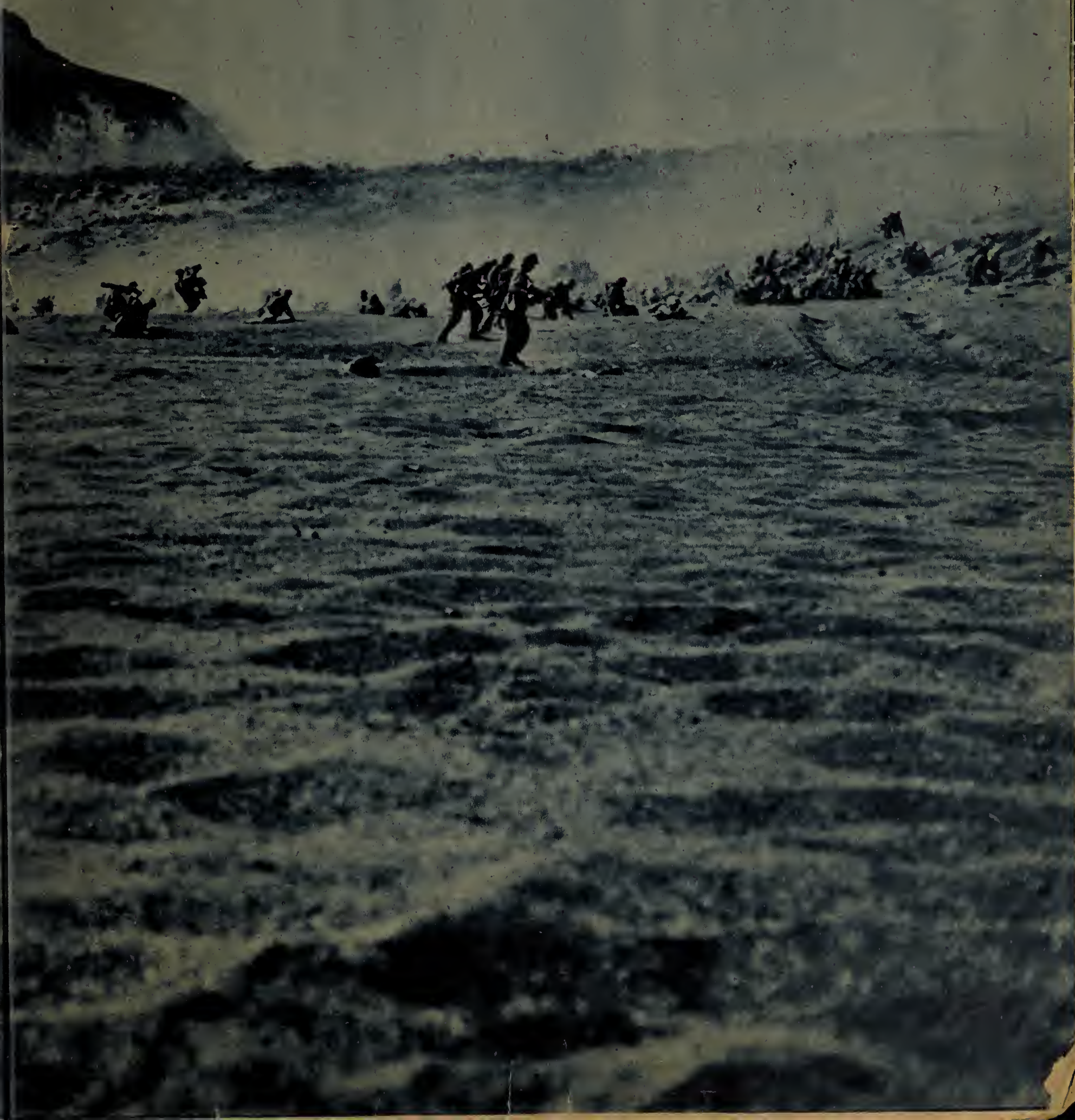
←
Major General Harry Schmidt (left), V Amphibious Corps commanding general, with Lieutenant General Holland M. Smith, commanding general, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

→
Major General Rockey receives progress report over the phone, while Brigadier General Hermle stands by.

MARINES I



INVADE IWO!



D-DAY





Corpsmen quickly set up a beachhead aid station on D-Day.



Faces covered with protective grease to guard against powder burns, these engineers cautiously probe for mines to mark a path for incoming troops.



BATTLE RAGES FOR IWO JIMA VOLCANO

**"Marines of the 5th
Marine Division
stormed Iwo's
Mount Suribachi
against withering
fire..."**



JAPS CLING TO IWO'S MT. SURIBACHI



They did their best to hang on to it. The mute pile of emptied machine gun cartridges gives some idea of the fight for the volcano.

HOWITZERS roared and demolition blasts bit into the face of Mount Suribachi as attacking Marines dislodged Jap defenders, almost one by one.



TWO CASUALTIES MOUNT



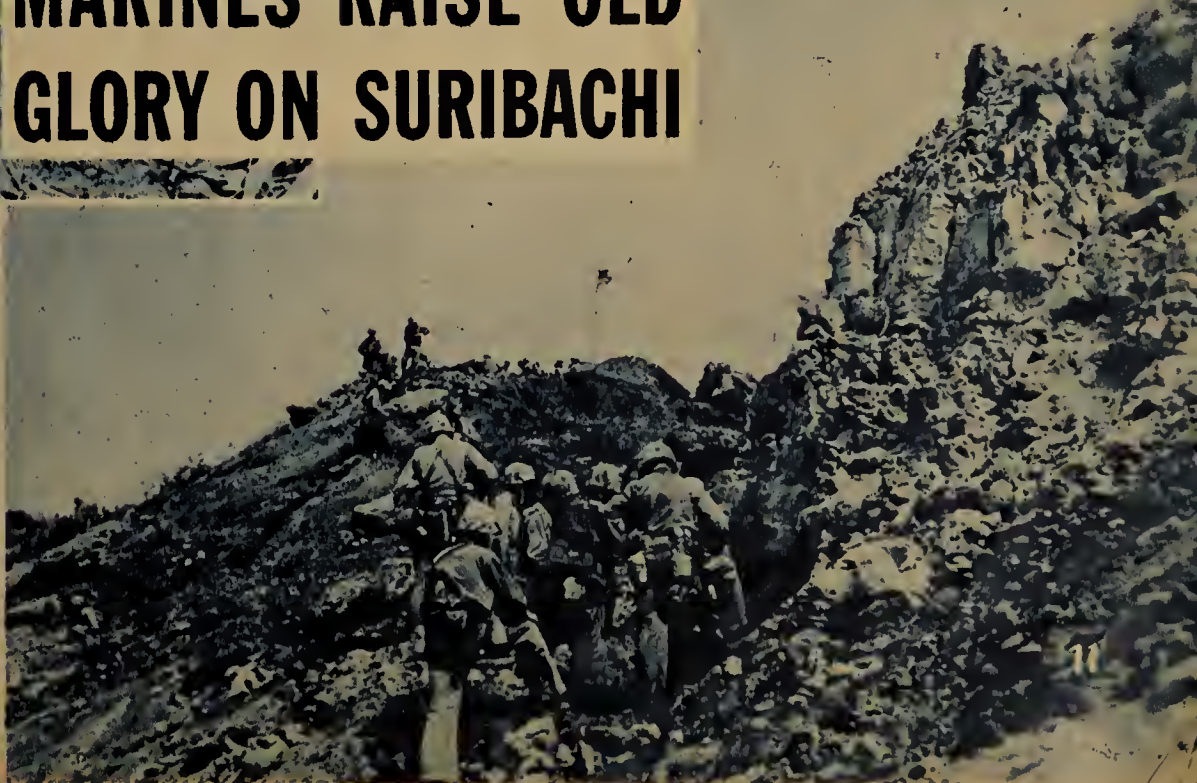


OVER Suribachi on the fifth day, the flag of the United States billowed out dramatically to let the world know that the Marines "had the situation well in hand."

With the raising of the flag came a sudden upsurge of spirit that made itself felt throughout the attacking forces. Americans engaged in the battle and those at home felt a fierce pride as the flag rippled silently over the volcano. The battle went on toward the north.

MARINES RAISE OLD GLORY ON SURIBACHI

While the flag of the United States was being raised on Mount Suribachi, Japanese hidden in the crater tried to blast the flag raisers with grenades. This is the party of Marines who silenced the Japs. The photo was made from inside the crater of Mount Suribachi. Tediously, Marines of the 5th Division dug out, burned out and demolished pill-boxes and blasted caves on Mount Suribachi to reach the top.



AMID scattered wreckage of Japanese planes wrecked by naval and aerial bombardment, Marines battled their way to take the airfield that was one of the key reasons for capturing the island. Japanese fire swept the field and snipers hid in the wreckage.



MARINES STORM IWO AIRFIELD



U. S. HOLDS IWO AIRSTRIP

Almost simultaneous with the capture of Airfield No. 1, bombers of Pacific air forces found haven on the field. Wounded aircraft fluttered down to rest on the area they once had bombed.



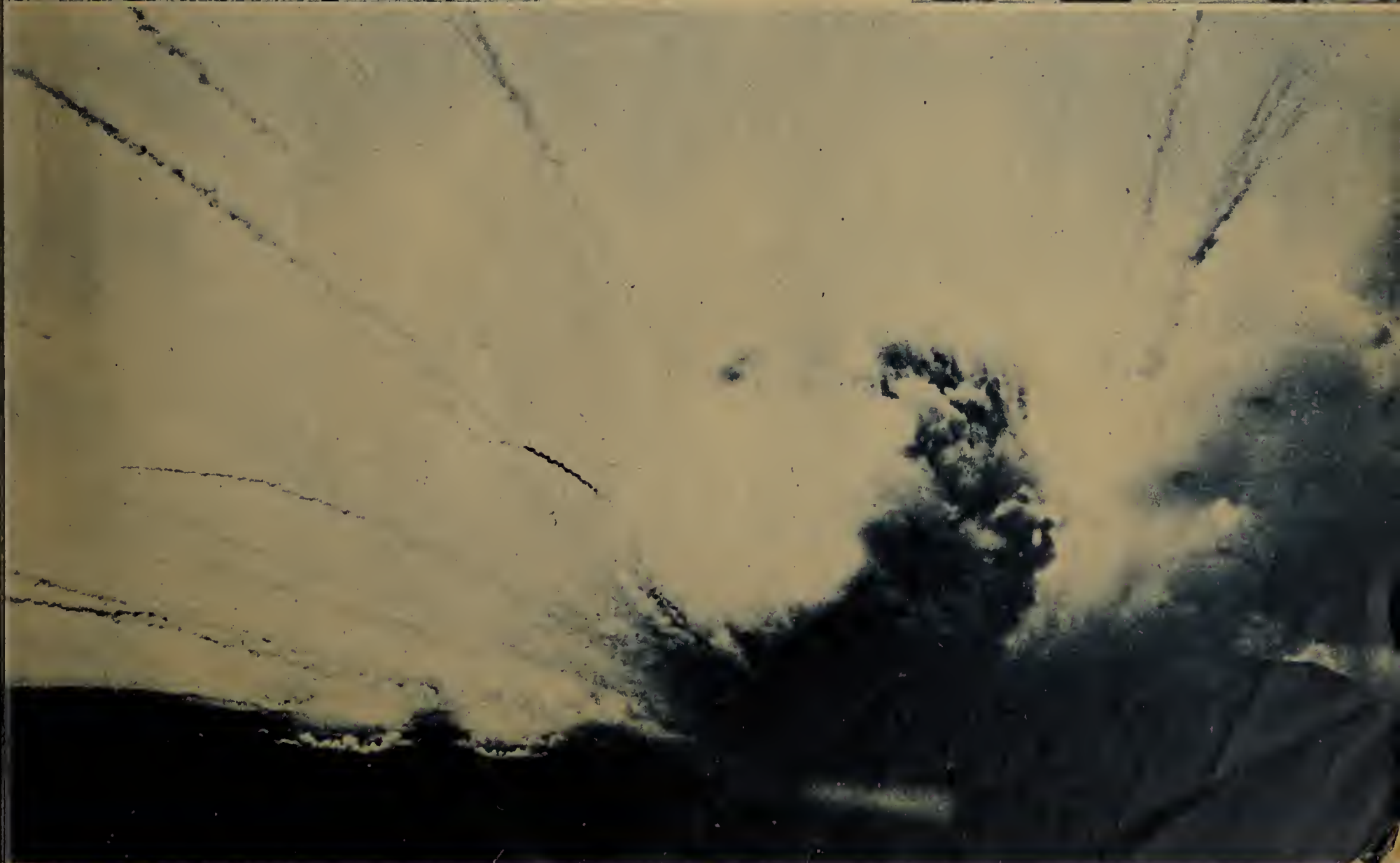
Flak-scarred U. S. fighter limps into Iwo.



"Dud"



This was our ammunition! Jap shells scored a direct hit. For a little while there was some question as to whose ammunition we were dodging.

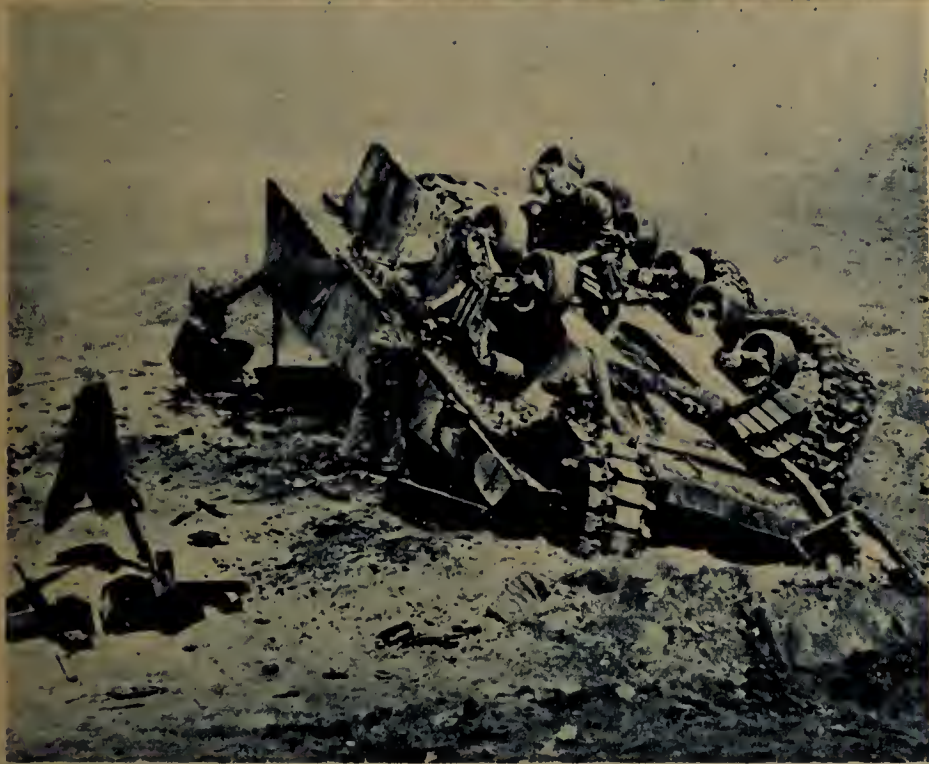


JAP BOMBERS OVER IWO, TOKYO SAYS

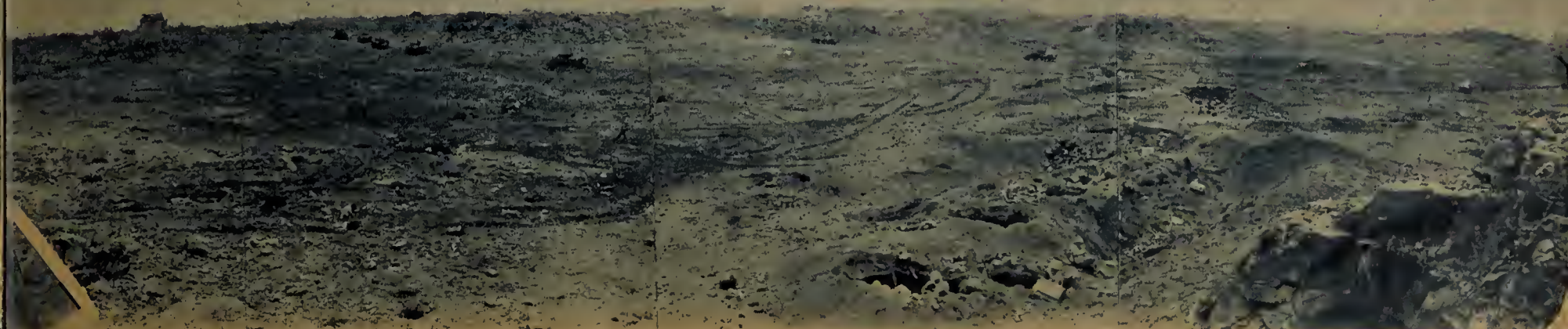


THIS spectacular photograph was made from the 5th Division C. P. during an anti-aircraft barrage early in the operation.

MARINES FIGHT INTO CENTER OF IWO



VITAL in the operation were Marine tanks which moved forward under terrific fire to blast Japanese defenses.



1.



4.



Possibly the Most Heavily Defended Spot per Acre of Ground in the World...

Hanson Baldwin, N. Y. Times Military Expert

A NATURAL fortress, Iwo Jima was heavily fortified by the Japanese who built an almost endless chain of caves and pillboxes all over the island.

1. Entrance to one of the caves. 2. Captured blockhouse. 3. Small concrete pillbox. 4. Enemy dead left in a cave after attacks by Marine flamethrowers. 5. Japanese dual purpose gun.

5.

2.



3.





YANK GUNS CONTROL IWO



As the operation went on, the roar of guns became an almost unnoticed sound.



MARINES INCH AHEAD AGAINST BITTER JAP DEFENSE



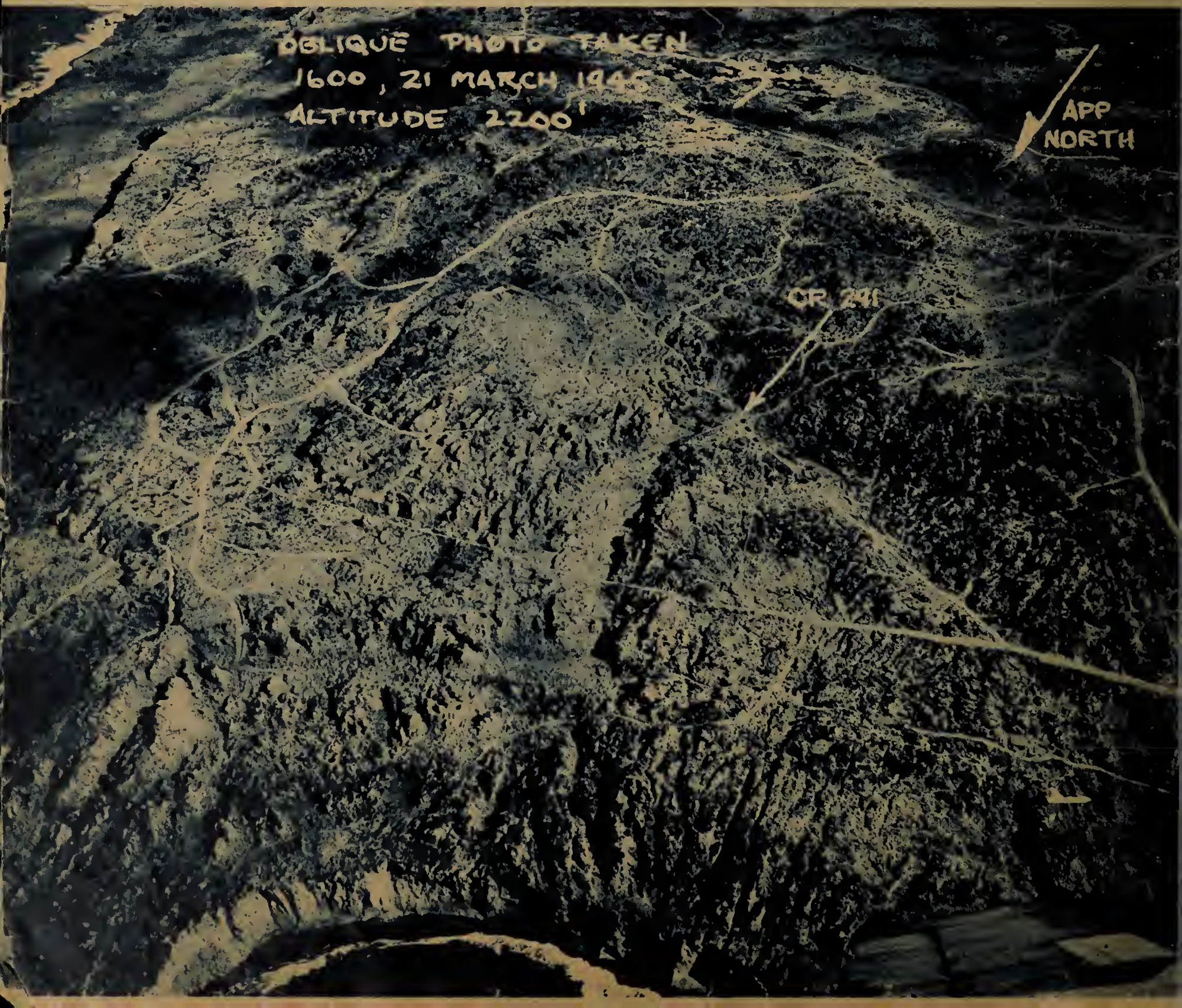
HILL 362

HERE is where much of the bitter price for Iwo Jima was paid. Japanese caves and pillboxes honey-combed Hill 362 and the surrounding area. There was no fancy way to take it. Marines just moved ahead slowly, relentlessly. After bitter fighting, Hill 362 fell, and Marines moved forward to see the "bad-lands" — some of the most fantastic terrain faced in this war.



BLOODY GORGE

The aerial picture below shows the general area in which lay "Bloody Gorge" (noted as the light depression in the center). The arrow points to CR (Crossroads) 291. Tanks at CR 291 were wrecked by enemy mines. Last stand of the enemy was in the area shown in the lower center of the picture.



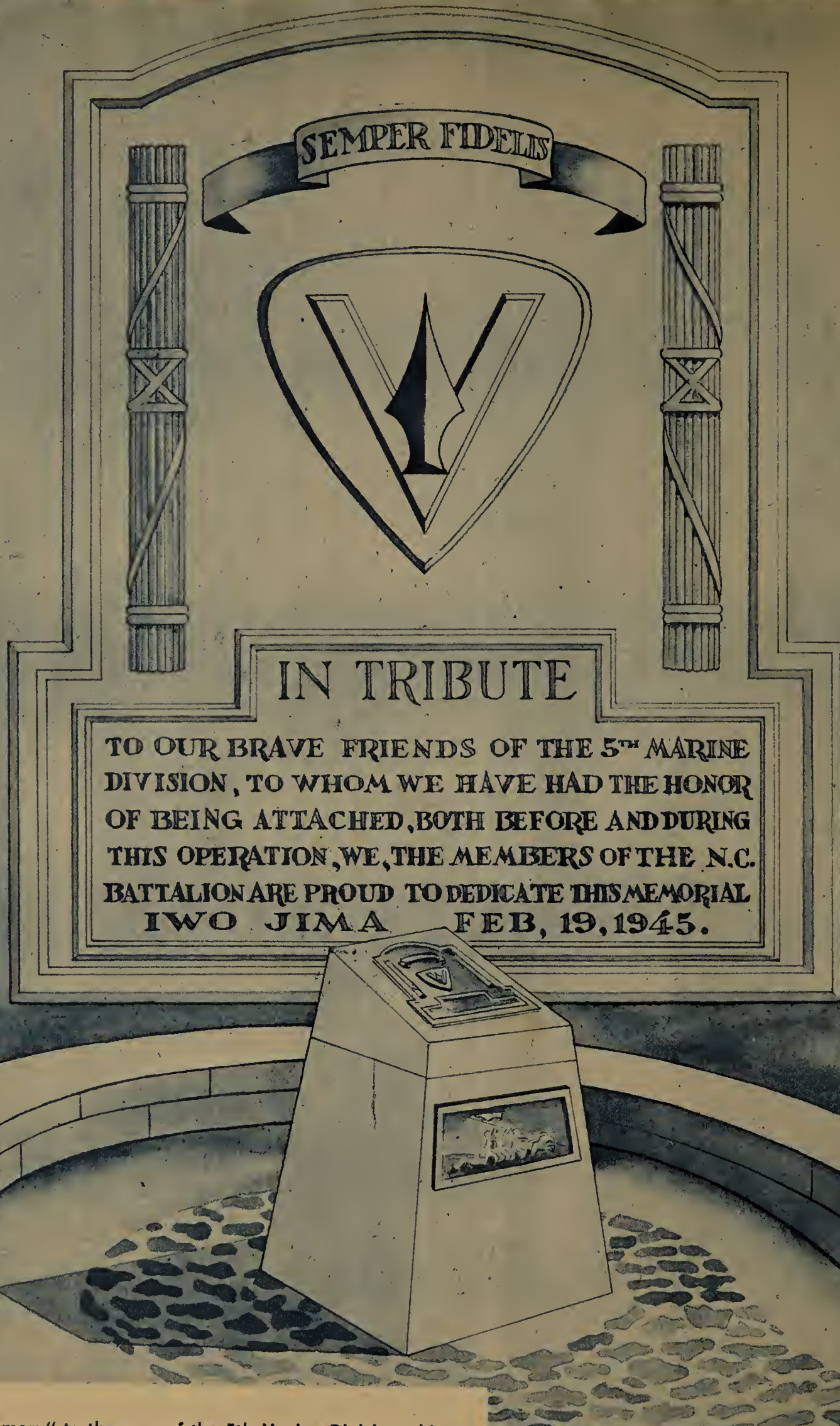


IWO BATTLE IS TOUGHEST IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

IT was in a deep gorge combining the worst features of this area that the Japanese chose to make their final stand on Iwo Jima. In this fantastic maze of rocky rubble and stunted growth, one of the deadliest battles of the entire operation took place. It was rock-to-rock fighting with no quarter given and none asked.



Three thousand pounds of high explosive planted by the engineers blast apart what was once a formidable Japanese pillbox near the gorge. It, like many others on this island, was protected by reinforced concrete walls as much as five feet thick.



IN "grateful memory" to the men of the 5th Marine Division, this monument is being constructed on Iwo Jima by a Naval Construction Battalion. Its two plaques, made of shells fired during the operation, commemorate the landing and invasion by the 5th Division. The marker will stand in a former Japanese gun emplacement which remains for the greater part unchanged from the days when it held a gun that fired against United States Marines. The lower plaque commemorates the famous flag-raising scene on Mount Suribachi. The flagstone walk around the marker will be made of stone of the island.

J.B. FRASER CMM
N.C. Batt Hdq. Co.
Apr. 5, 1945.

5th DIVISION CEMETERY DEDICATED

WHITE clouds floated lazily along through a blue sky, and the sun shone down benevolently. In the warm sunlight of that morning on March 21, 1945, officers and men of the 5th Marine Division, who could, gathered in the cross-shaped cemetery on Iwo Jima, where lay their comrades in arms, to dedicate the grounds to the hallowed memory of those who died on the island. Said Major General Keller E. Rockey: "The finest tribute which we can pay to these men who lie here is in dedicating ourselves to maintain in our organization the high standards of courage and devotion which they have so nobly set." Men who died in the fight for Iwo Jima lie in simple dignity in the volcanic sand for which they fought. There is no distinction. Rank means nothing. Theirs is a common glory.



"They represent every type of religious belief and creed. But they had in common one thing: An implicit faith in the way of life which the flag about to be raised on this sacred spot symbolizes." From the dedicatory introduction by Chaplain W. F. Cuthriell, U.S.N., Division chaplain.



↑
"Theirs is the highest and purest democracy." From a dedication speech by Chaplain Roland Gitelson, Jewish chaplain attached to the 5th Marine Division.







IWO JIMA



TYPICAL OF THOSE WHO DIED

THE editors of this publication would like to include pictures of all officers and men who gave their lives in the capture of Iwo Jima. Since this is not possible, John Basilone is selected as typifying their courage and gallantry. Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone won the Congressional Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry at Guadalcanal. He lost his life on Iwo Jima leading his men in an attack on an enemy pillbox. His outstanding courage and leadership were an inspiration to his comrades. In honoring John Basilone we also honor these many other brave men who were killed in carrying forward the attack and making victory possible.

Colonel
Thomas A. Wornham



Chief of Staff
(extreme left)
with Executive
Staff: Colonel
John W. Beckett,
Colonel James
F. Shaw, Jr.,
Colonel Earl S.
Piper, Lieuten-
ant Colonel
George A. Roll,
and Lieutenant
Colonel Fred-
erick R. Dowsett.

Colonel Harry B.
Liversedge and
Lieutenant Colonel
Robert H. Williams.



COMMANDS OF THE 5th DIVISION

Lieutenant
Colonel
Kenyth A.
Damke.



Colonel
Benjamin
W. Gally.



Colonel
Chester B.
Graham.



Colonel James
D. Waller.



Colonel Lester
S. Hamel.

"THERE WERE TWO FRONTS: The Beaches and the Front Lines"

AMTRACS and DUKWs day after day during the campaign carried the brunt of the supply burden on the beaches. On them moved supplies from the water's edge to advancing assault areas. Under extraordinarily heavy fire for the first few days, supply lines on Iwo Jima presented a major problem.



DESTRUCTION LITTERS BEACHES

Adding to beach clearance problems was wreckage such as this DUKW which sustained a direct hit.





IN A BATTLE so costly in manpower as Iwo Jima, expert medical care played a prime part in the saving of human lives. On this eight-square-mile Pacific fortress medical units distinguished themselves. Medical service was superb.



Some of the wounded were evacuated by ship, some by air.





← Ordnance men maintained the fire power of the Division.



↑ Above are the mortarmen.

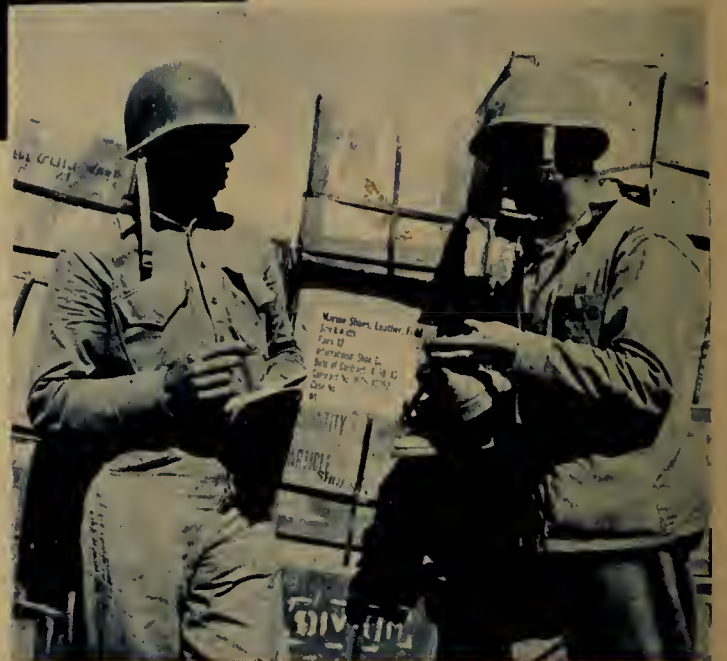


← "Fighter writer," the combat correspondent.



← The bakers—they fought before they baked.

Q.M.—shoes came second; bullets were first.



↑ Rockets—the Japs soon learned their sound.

The Specialists

VITAL to the Marine Corps are its highly skilled specialists whose varied jobs serve the fighting fronts of the Corps.



↑
The motors
roared.

→
Saltwater
cowboy.



↑
Captured
Jap trucks
joined the
Corps.



↑
Devil dogs.



↑
Roger—out.

→
Roadbuilders





← Protestant

“Our Father..”



↑ Catholic



“And every man shall worship according to his choice.” All creeds and denominations were represented among the Marines who won the island. These are services in the field.

← Jewish

MAIL REACHES IWO JIMA FIGHTERS

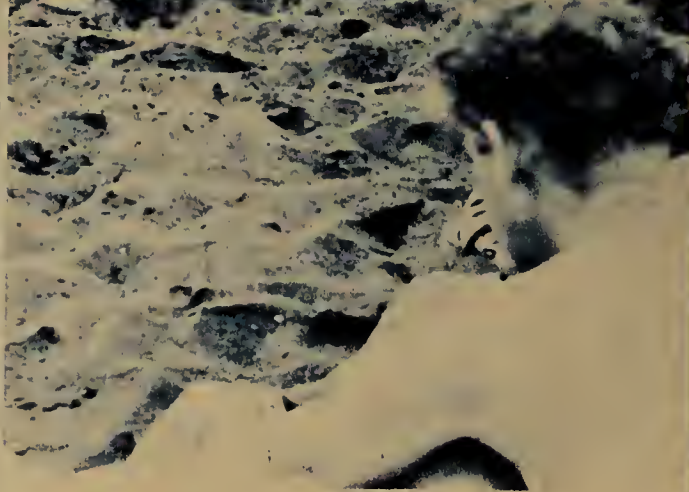
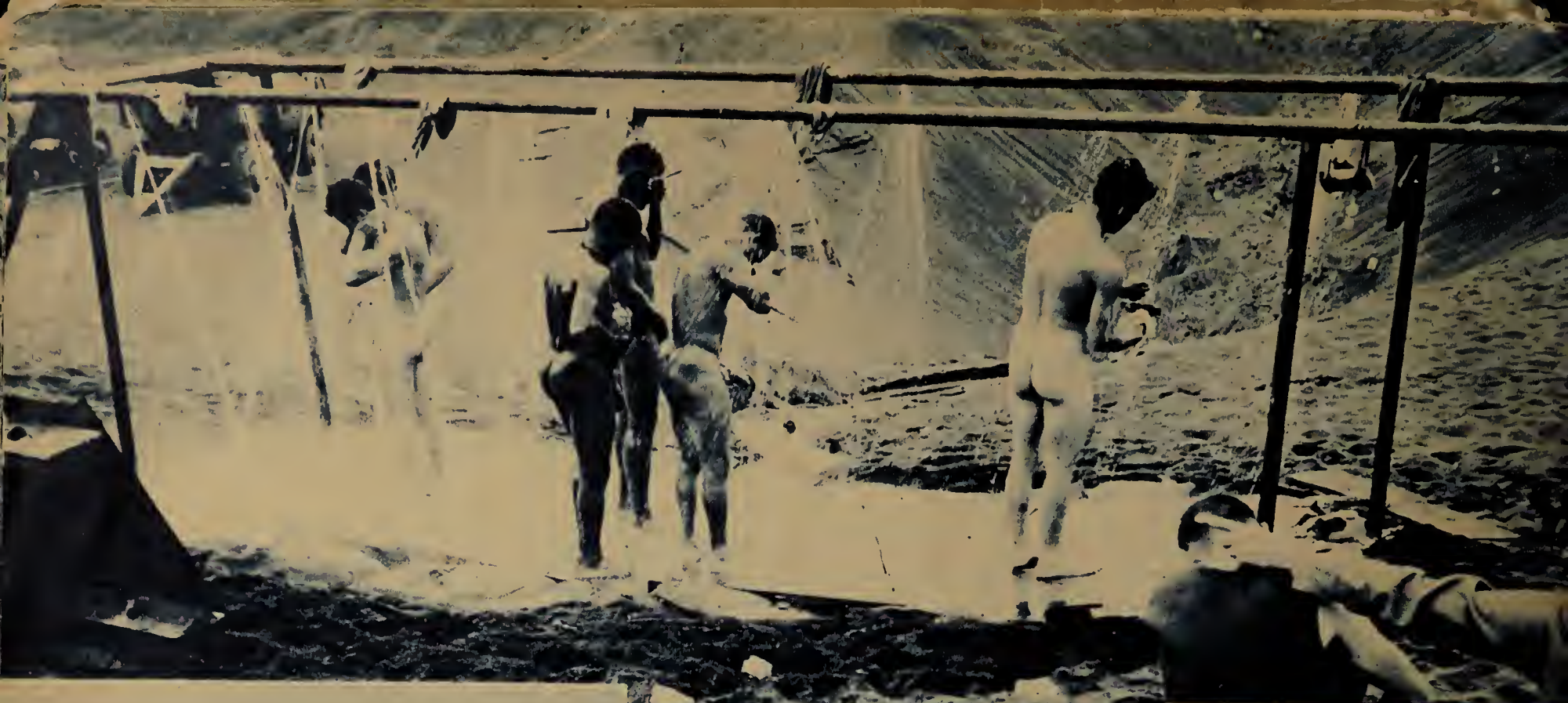


THE magic word "Mail" was passed down the lines and beach only a few days after the landing, and with it came a breath of home. Morale reached a new high.



"Be my valentine . . . Nuts!"





Field Day

Some like lots of salt water; some a little fresh.

You don't remove the dirt. You just move it around.

"There is some vegetation on the island"—
from an encyclopedia describing Iwo Jima.





IWO IS A DISMAL PLACE; IT'S SMALL AND MEAN

Steam heated foxholes. Parts of Iwo Jima are probably the only battlefield where the foxholes were naturally steamheated. There was so much sulphur steam coming through the ground that everybody had hot chow, whether he liked it or not.



"Sunny-side up"

A FEW WERE NON-COMBATANTS

No place is too barren
for Marines to find pets.



Even in the heat of battle, Marines of the 5th Division found time to assure what safety was available, if any, to these non-combatants, most of whom were completely bewildered.

➡ Iwo and Jima.



Souvenirs

Whatever the Japs may think, Marines do not fight primarily for the privilege of gathering souvenirs, but there is some weight to the argument that it comes second.



Signs of the Times

Wherever Marines go, their activities are announced with signs. These are samples of Iwo Jima outdoor advertising.



Aboard a Naval Transport

GOING to and coming from the target, life aboard a naval transport is not without its shortcomings, but somehow the Marine with his ingenuity and his ability to adapt himself makes a fairly comfortable life of the voyage. It is here amidst the rolling and pitching of the ship that he discovers the meaning of the time-honored phrase "Soldiers of the Sea."



Spraying to fight still another enemy—the insects that 39
might have been on two.





IWO AIRSTRIp SAVES U. S. FLYERS

While the crew of many a crippled U. S. bomber sighed with relief when Iwo's airfields were in U. S. hands, first honors for landing on the island went to an intrepid "Grasshopper," piloted by one of those Marines who, during the campaign, peered virtually into the faces of defending Japanese to determine accurately enemy positions. Grateful pilots brought in limping, flak-scarred planes to rest where only a few weeks prior those airmen would have had to land in the sea.





One sunny afternoon there came down to the beaches of Iwo Jima the Marines who had put the island under the protection of the United States. They were through. The battle was over. They were going back. Few occasions can equal the tired gratitude that every Marine felt when the operation was secured and he boarded the ship to leave.

SECURED



WELCOME

As the ship slid slowly through the water toward the island, bands played and pretty Red Cross girls met us with coffee. We were coming to the base. There wasn't much to say. We were too busy looking.



At left, scrapin' them off! While we grew beards on Iwo, there was not much inclination to start growing them here. Every morning this is a common sight.

Life in camp resolved itself into the usual daily routine which was a welcome pattern after the island we had just left. Here are some of the tents we live in.



DAY to day activities both in the nature of duty and recreation have wide scope here. Sports of every type are available to all Marines. Hobbies are followed with avid interest. Visitors to camp are not uncommon. Sometimes they're individuals, and then again other troops come to camp to spend some time with the 5th Division.



Baseball today! Playing on the field, christened "Iwo Jima Field," the Division baseball team has turned in some fine performances.



CAMP LIFE

When this regiment is reviewed, one of the spectators who is most interested is "Roscoe," the lion cub. He's the regimental mascot.

Here is a camp theater, named for one of those rocks off Iwo Jima. Fun begins here at 1900. It's the camp equivalent of Times Square. The girls are USO troupers from one of the stage shows to pay us a visit.





THE RED CROSS

THE "Greatest Mother" moved in with some recreation huts. Not the least of the attractions are the girls, the daughters of the "Greatest Mother," who see to it that there's "Coffee Time" every afternoon and evening. There's everything from music to chess, including lots of reading material.

PIN-UPS FROM "THE GAY NINETIES"

Pin-ups of an entirely different variety greeted the veterans of two when they stepped into one of the Red Cross recreation huts. Fashioned by a Red Cross girl, they represent the titles of songs from a by-gone era, "the Gay Nineties."



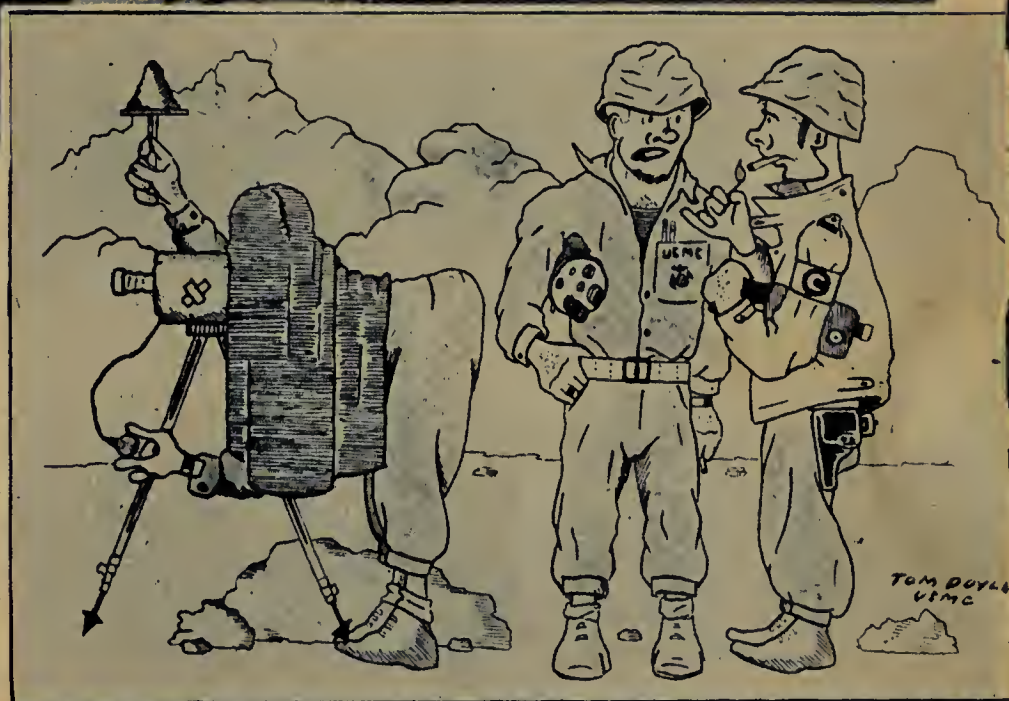
AS THE ARTISTS SAY IT

HERE is evidence that Marines on Iwo Jima could draw and paint as well as fight. These were selected as winners in an art contest held for 5th Division Marines.



1.

2.



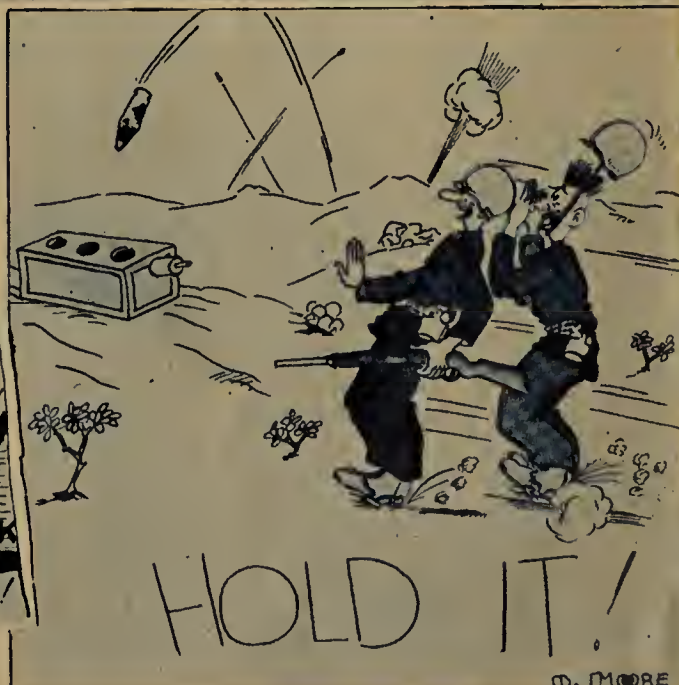
ALL I KNOW IS THAT HE TOOK SOME DAMN GOOD PHOTOS AT JELLEAN WOODS.

4.



MILAZZO

I THINK POP'S BEEN IN THIS DOG DETACHMENT TOO LONG!



D. MOORE

6.

1. First prize, water color, by First Lieutenant Lambert J. Soucek, Jr.
2. Second prize, water color by Staff Sergeant R. S. Grosse.
3. Third prize, oil painting, by Second Lieutenant J. R. Johnson.
4. Cartoon first prize, by Private Tom Doyle.
5. Cartoon second prize, by Daniel Moore, HA 1/c.
6. Cartoon third prize, by Private First Class Charles J. Milazzo.

5.

45



ALMOST like a park in the United States, this tranquil place offers 5th Division Marines a place to loll in the sand and forget for just a little while the ravages of the war in the Pacific. It's almost like a travel folder, and dreams of Pacific islands, shattered in many cases, get a new lease on life when scenes like this become a reality.

AT THE overseas home of the 5th Marine Division there is every need for a Marine combat division. And with those needs is also the beauty that can be found in the Pacific.

This cottage was made available to the commanding general of the 5th Marine Division. Even in the Pacific, it still carries a breath of rural America.



At this beach we could have rest and relaxation before we started training again. We could look forward to places like this for afternoons under the warm sun. Getting in salt water here is a lot different from other places we've seen. This is one of the recreation and training beaches.

PACIFIC BASE

One of the battalions passes in review.



MY OUTFIT

Warren S. McGuire

1048 W. 6th St. Eugene, Oregon

Walter C. Beckman Jr.

Box 5-1, Kingsport, Tenn.

MR. RUSS KOHLDFE

6311 MILWAUKEE AVENUE

WAUWATOSA 12, WISCONSIN

(MILWAUKEE) Tel. 5773 Bl.

3400 Carl E. Leepi

214 So. Seely Ave

Chicago, 12, Illinois

Mr. Harold S. Patraw

1755 Blair

St Paul Minn.

Danell F. Harris

114 N. Orange St

Ocala, Florida.

Charles J. Leitch

13 Grove St.

Johnstown, New York

L. L. Podlas

Newark, New Jersey

Les P. Groves

Valparaiso, Ind.

Levin E. Hauser

Remington Arms

S. Lion, N.Y.

Mr. Christine (Chris)

Yuba City

California

Edward Hunt

347 Calvert St.

Frederick, Penna.

Angelo J. Luchini

Copies of this publication are being sent with the compliments of the Division to the families of all the officers and men who were killed on Iwo Jima and to those who were badly wounded.

W. D. Terwilliger

1910 W. Fort St.

Detroit 16, Mich

L. M. Mayfield

2114 - 19th St

Rubiock Tex

Harry C. Schenk

Wilbur F. Roper

204 - 1st St.

NICHOLAS R. TETI

607 PENN ST.

CHESTER, PENNA.

J. P. Zarowsky

2030 Center St. Oakland, Ca.

3271 Wisconsin Ave. Baltimore, Md.

204 - 1st St. S. Canton, Ohio

CREDIT

Booklet produced by Public Relations section and G-2 Photographic section. Individual credit: Editor, Captain Robert L. Jones; managing editor, Sergeant Charles B. Cunningham; art work, Gunnery Sergeant Grant J. Powers and Corporal A. A. Kochendorfer Jr.; photo section, W.O. Obie E. Newcomb Jr.; "Pictorial California," 3275 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 5, California, U.S.A. Contents copyrighted, 1945.

1
Cpl. R. D. Smith
Joint Illinois
Abner B. Yeager
Caradon, Texas

Ulmer T. Cain
Columbus, Georgia
Roger M. Miller, Texas
Sandia Bay 72
Glendon J. Rhoades.
Nevada, Utah.
Gefonso Lopez
122 W. 45 St.
Los Angeles 37, Calif.

6 C on
Belgrade, Mont
Wm Yozzie
Chin Lee, Ariz.
Thunder Bird Ranch
Billy B. Gustus
402 So. Mc Donnell St.
Attica, Indiana

Phas. M. Tunt,
959 Pulliam St.
Atlanta, Ga.

Lotta Luck Linn.

Mrs. Madison
P.O. Box 12
Coachella, Calif.

E. W. McAdoo
P.O. Box 22
McKenzie Farm

Andy Anderson
228 Kesel Ave.
Rice Lake, Wisc.

Batrick H. Severance
814 Leander St
Houston, Texas

Benny Cohen
125 Talbot Court
Cheyenne, Wyo.

Wm. J. Huntman
313 Washington

Catherine Whittemore (Tot)
18 Vine Street
Bronxville, N.Y.

Verice L. Speck (Bumma)
37 Ridge Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri



Wendell E. Hansen
Sharon, Conn.

Ugill E. Renan
515 So. Lincoln

C. Robert Lember
1107 West 75th St.
Aberdeen, S. Dak.

Los Angeles 44,
California

Lots of luck in
your "civil" life
and hope your
next youngun'
is a girl!

GRANT POWERS
GY. SGT. USMC

Joseph P. Lizzie Box 424 Island Pond, VT.
 Art Huerstle 232 King St Dunkirk, N.Y.
 Jerry J. Kies West Bend, Wis concin (Mortar)
 Robert M. Barry 1648 W. Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale (1), Calif.
 Mort Caplan 3601 Callaway Ave. Baltimore, 15, Md.
 - Ernest Dunkin 4 Kitchell, Ave. Harton, N.J.
 - K. G. Birks - 257 N. Plum Grove Ave. Palatine, Illinois
 Ray J. Kiley 530 Western ave Downey Calif
 Charles B. Turner 819 E. 12th St North Kansas City Missouri
 J. R. Newton Jr 720 E. Georgia #20 Indianapolis 2, Indiana
 Bill Pate Box 805 Dos Palos, Calif.
 R. H. Lawrence - 1615 Atlantic Avenue, Portsmouth, Virginia
 R. H. Mc Dowell 509 E. Milton Ave. Lewisburg, Ill.
 P. S. Murionka 852 N. Lawrence St. Phila, Pa
 Victor A. Jahn 195 Randall St. Fontana California
 R. Hoyt Sheffield 111 Santa Fe Dr. Houston, 12, Texas
 J. F. Ganley Lexington, Michigan
 Harry L. Wilson 3180 Powell Ave. Memphis, Tennessee
 Jimmy Eugene Davis 3323 Fairfield K.C. Mo.
 Joseph Szilagyi 246 E. 73rd St, L.A. Calif.
 Dick Thomas 1107 N. 11 St. - Boise, Idaho
 Joe Fitz Patrick 5743 Wayne Ave. Phila. Penna.
 Ben Gambini 62 Orchard St. Glensville, N.Y.
 Mark W. Carr Box 741 Breckenridge, Texas
 Robert A. Vocker 107 Chestnut St. Brooklyn (8), New York
 William P. Williams Ravenswood, West Virginia
 Angelo Calorosso Valley Falls New York
 Walter J. McCall 120 So. Craig Pl. Lombard, Ill.
 Henry M. Lux Park Road RFD #552 Mc Keesport, Pa.
 John C. Kines St. Louis Mo. 2909 Clara Ave.
 5310 Gladstone Ave. Apt. 2 D. St. Louis Mo.
 Robert E. Sanders Temple, Odo.
 Peter Beck
 San Francisco, Calif.
 George A. Chen
 Detroit, Mich.
 William W. Brazel,
 Columbus, Georgia
 Don McQuerry
 Monahan, Tex

from Long Beach
 Bys or, Texas
 Harvey C. Berthold
 Ladysmith Wisc.
 Anthony J. Hernandez
 Pueblo, Colorado